

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

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R 312144Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY LISBON
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USICA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY BANJUL
AMCONSUL BUKAVU
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY BANGUI
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
AMEMBASSY KIGALI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BONN
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AMEMBASSY MASERU
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY VICTORIA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY COTONOU
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
AMEMBASSY PRAIA
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY BERLIN

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:SOPN

SUBJECT:DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING MAY 31, 1978

FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL, UNCORRECTED EXCERPT FROM THE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING. IF NECESSARY OFFICIAL
VERSION WILL FOLLOW.

MR. CARTER: I HAVE ONE OTHER STATEMENT.

WE HAVE NOTED WITH REGRET THAT THE CUBAN REPRESENTATIVE,
CARLOS RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ, SPEAKING AT THE MAY 30TH MEETING
OF THE U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT
CHOSE TO INCLUDE A PERSONAL ATTACK ON PRESIDENT CARTER IN
HIS SPEECH. WHILE ONE MIGHT QUESTION THE NEED TO AIR CUBAN-
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AMERICAN DIFFERENCES, DURING A SESSION EXPRESSLY DEVOTED TO
DISARMAMENT, IN THE WAY THAT THE CUBAN REPRESENTATIVE DID,
THERE CAN BE NO QUESTION THAT THE CUBAN REMARKS BEFORE THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY DIRECTED AT PRESIDENT CARTER PERSONALLY
WERE HIGHLY INAPPROPRIATE.

INSOFAR AS THE SUBSTANCE OF THE REMARKS ARE CONCERNED, I
HAVE NO PARTICULAR WISH TO GET INTO ANOTHER ROUND OF REFUTA-
TION. I WOULD ONLY POINT OUT ONCE MORE THAT THE PRESIDENT
OF THE UNITED STATES, THE SECRETARY OF STATE, AND A NUMBER

OF OTHER ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS HAVE SAID REPEATEDLY ON
THE BASIS OF INFORMATION WHICH THEY CONSIDER TO BE GOOD
AND SUFFICIENT AND WHICH IS THAT THE CUBANS DID HAVE AN
ACTIVE ROLE IN THE TRAINING AND SUPPLYING OF THE FORCES
WHICH CAME ACROSS FROM ANGOLA INTO SHABA PROVINCE AND WE
ARE, AS YOU ALL KNOW, OBVIOUSLY PRESENTING EVIDENCE OF THIS
AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME AND PLACE.

THOSE ARE THE STATEMENTS.

Q: WHY DOESN'T THE GOVERNMENT JUST PUT OUT PUBLICLY YOUR
INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION?

A: I BELIEVE THAT THE EVIDENCE, FOR INSTANCE, WHICH HAS
BEEN REQUESTED UP ON THE HILL IS GOING TO BE MADE AVAILABLE
AND AT WHAT POINT I AM NOT PREPARED TO SAY, THOUGH I BE-

LIEVE, IN FACT, IT IS GOING FORWARD.

INSOFAR AS OUR GOING PUBLIC WITH SPECIFIC INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION, SANITIZED OR NOT, AS YOU MIGHT WISH, I DON'T HAVE AN AGENDA FOR YOU.

Q: BECAUSE DON'T YOU AGREE THAT THE BURDEN OF PROOF IS ON

UNITED STATES? YOU ARE MAKING A LOT OF STATEMENTS. THE UNCLASSIFIED

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CUBANS DENY IT PUBLICLY AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL. AND WE JUST HAVE TO ACCEPT IT ON FACE VALUE. I THINK TIMES HAVE CHANGED.

A: I THINK THEY HAVE CHANGED SO MUCH THAT WHEN IT COMES DOWN TO WHETHER YOU BELIEVE THE DENIAL OF A GOVERNMENT WHICH IS KNOWN TO BE MAINTAINING ANOTHER GOVERNMENT IN EXISTENCE FROM WHICH AN INVADING FORCE CAME OR BELIEVING YOUR OWN GOVERNMENT, THE TIMES HAVE CHANGED ENOUGH THAT

YOU RAISE THE QUESTION OF WHICH SHOULD BE BELIEVED, I WOULD SAY THAT THE ASSERTION DOESN'T NECESSARILY HAVE TO FOLLOW THAT I HAVE TO PROVE IT. BUT IN ANY CASE I AM SAYING WE REPEAT THAT ASSERTION AND I AM SAYING THAT WE WILL, IN FACT, AND ARE WILLING AND HAVE AGREED TO PROVIDE THE INFORMATION WE HAVE TO THE APPROPRIATE AGENCY IN CONGRESS AND THAT WE WILL GO FORWARD WITH THAT.

Q: HODDING, WHAT IF THE CUBANS KNEW ABOUT IT BEFOREHAND? I MEAN WHAT'S -- THEN WHAT? THEY HAVE TO TELL YOU, THEY HAD TO WARN MOBUTU? WHAT DID YOU EXPECT OF THEM?

A: LET ME SUGGEST SEVERAL THINGS HERE:

ONE, AS HAS BEEN EXPRESSED BY PEOPLE ACROSS THE BOARD, RANGING FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, THE FUNCTIONING OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA IS LARGELY DEPENDENT UPON THE SUPPORT OF THE CUBAN FORCES AND CIVILIANS THAT ARE THERE.

SECOND, THERE IS VERY LITTLE THAT HAPPENS INSIDE THAT COUNTRY TO WHICH THEY ARE NOT PRIVY, BOTH IN KNOWLEDGE AND SUPPORT.

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THIRD, THIS WAS AN ACT OF AGGRESSION FROM A TERRITORY OVER WHICH THEY HAD SUBSTANTIAL CONTROL AND INFLUENCE -- AN ACT OF AGGRESSION ON A SOVEREIGN MEMBER OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN VIOLATION OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

YES, THEY HAD A RESPONSIBILITY.

Q: HODDING, COULD YOU DIRECT YOURSELF TO ANOTHER AREA OF THIS PARIS MEETING -- AND PARTICULARLY WHETHER PART OF THE PURPOSE OF THIS MEETING IS TO DISCUSS THE CREATION OF A PEACEKEEPING FORCE -- HOW THAT FITS IN -- OR DOES THIS NOW HAVE NO PART IN THAT PARIS ECONOMIC MEETING?

A: NOW YOU KNOW YOU CAN PLAY THE GAME BETWEEN VARIOUS BUREAUS AND DEPARTMENTS OF THIS FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. YOU CANNOT PLAY IT BETWEEN THE SPOKESMAN AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE. YOU HAD 45 MINUTES WITH HIM ON A NATO INTERVIEW YESTERDAY, OF WHICH 25 MINUTES WERE ON THAT SUBJECT.

I THINK YOU'VE GOT IT. I HAVE READ YOUR STORIES AND THEY SEEM TO BE PRETTY ACCURATE.

Q: HODDING, THE REASON I AM ASKING THE QUESTIONS IS THAT THE FRENCH AND OTHER DIPLOMATS HERE CONTINUE TO TALK ABOUT THE PARIS MEETING AS -- PERHAPS NOT "CHIEFLY" -- BUT AT LEAST IMPORTANTLY CONCERNED WITH CREATING THIS FORCE.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE SAYS THAT THAT IS SOMETHING OF MUCH LESS IMPORTANCE. NOW IS THAT A DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN US AND THE EUROPEANS, OR --

A: LET ME TRY TO BE AS SPECIFIC AS WE CAN BE AT THIS POINT, AND I WANT TO SAY WITH THE CAVEAT THAT WE ARE OBVIOUSLY CONTINUING TO DISCUSS THE SHAPE AND PARTICIPATION OF THIS MEETING.

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OUR DISCUSSIONS TO DATE HAVE FOCUSED ON THE QUESTION OF ZAIRE. THE FRENCH HAVE CALLED A MEETING FOR JUNE 5 IN PARIS TO DISCUSS ZAIRE ALONE, IN AN EFFORT TO ARRIVE AT WORKABLE SOLUTIONS TO THE IMMEDIATE ECONOMIC AND SECURITY

PROBLEMS CAUSED BY THE KATANGAN INVASION. WE HAVE BEEN INVITED, ALONG WITH THE U.K., BELGIUM, -- AND THE (FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY).

OBVIOUSLY, THE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF ZAIRE WERE EXACERBATED BY THE INVASION INTO ZAIRE'S SHABA PROVINCE AND THE MEETING IN PARIS WILL SERVE AS A PREPARATION FOR A MEETING SCHEDULED IN BRUSSELS THE FOLLOWING WEEK, ON THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL SITUATION IN ZAIRE.

NOW THE SECRETARY, YESTERDAY, WENT ONANDI WOULD SIMPLY REPEAT THAT OBVIOUSLY OTHER MATTERS RELATING TO THE SECURITY OF KATANGA -- OF THE SHABA PROVINCE AND ZAIRE,

COULD AND MAY ARISE, AND WE ARE OBVIOUSLY PREPARED TO DISCUSS THEM THERE.

Q: HODDING, IT SEEMS -- ON THE PARIS MEETING IT SEEMS THE FRENCH WANT TO SEE THE PARIS MEETING DEVELOP SOME KIND OF SECURITY ARRANGEMENT WITH SHABA. ARE YOU ABLE TO SAY HOW THE UNITED STATES USED THE POSSIBILITY OF HAVE A MORE OR LESS PERMANENT EXTRA-TERRITORIAL SECURITY FORCE IN SHABA PROVINCE?

A: WE FIND THE CONCEPT OF AN AFRICAN FORCE STATIONED IN SHABA, A POSSIBILITY WORTH CONSIDERING. WE PLAN TO INVESTIGATE THIS AND OTHER OPTIONS IN DETAIL WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF ARRIVING AT A JOINT COORDINATED WESTERN APPROACH WITH RESPECT TO ZAIRE.
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NOW THAT IS THE NARROW QUESTION OF ZAIRE AND SHABA SPECIFICALLY.

ON THE CONCEPT OF AN INTERM AFRICAN SECURITY FORCE TO MEET THE MORE GENERAL CONCERN AMONG AFRICAN STATES ABOUT THEIR SECURITY AND STABILITY, IS A SEPARATE QUESTION WHICH WE DO NOT EXPECT WILL ARISE AT THE PARIS MEETINGS OR THE FOLLOW-UP ONES IN BRUSSELS.

Q: FOLLOWING UP THAT QUESTION, YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT AN

AFRICAN FORCE. NOW IT'S CLEAR THAT WHAT THE FRENCH HAVE IN MIND IS SOME AFRICANS, BUT ALSO FRENCH AND BELGIANS.

A: LET ME SAY SOMETHING: I AM NOT IN A GOOD WAY TO BE

DISCUSSING WHAT THE FRENCH OR THE BELGIANS HAVE IN MIND, TO BE PERFECTLY HONEST WITH YOU, AND THEY ARE BETTER AT THAT THAN I AM.

AND SINCE YOU HAVE OBVIOUSLY BEEN TALKING TO SOME OF THEM, MAYBE THEY CAN EXPLAIN IT FURTHER.

I CAN ONLY TELL YOU WHAT WE UNDERSTAND SOME OF THE CONSIDERATIONS ARE AND AS I SAID YESTERDAY -- BEING AS CONDITIONAL AS I COULD, AND NOT CONDITIONAL ENOUGH, OBVIOUSLY, WHAT WE ARE PREPARED TO DO IS TO CONSIDER ANY NUMBER OF POSSIBILITIES SHORT OF THE RESTRICTIONS I PUT ON IT YESTERDAY.

Q: SO YOU ARE SAYING -- PROBABLY THEN YOU ARE SAYING FLATLY YOU ARE NOT CONTEMPLATING ANY ACTION -- ACTUAL EUROPEAN FORCES OR ASSISTANCE --

A: ACTUALLY FLATLY AT THIS POINT WHAT WE CONTEMPLATE IS

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DISCUSSING A SERIOUS QUESTION, AND WE WISH TO DISCUSS A SERIOUS QUESTION, AND WE ARE GOING TO DISCUSS IT -- AND I CANNOT TELL YOU WHAT OTHERS MAY OR MAY NOT BE WILLING TO PUT ON THE TABLE FOR DISCUSSION.

Q: IT IS STILL A CONSIDERATION.

A: WE ARE TALKING, HOWEVER, AS WE HAVE ALWAYS TALKED, ABOUT OUR REAL DESIRE TO SEE AFRICAN QUESTIONS SOLVED TO THE HIGHEST DEGREE PRACTICAL, I.E., SOLVED BY AFRICANS, EXCEPT TO THE EXTENT THAT THAT BECOMES IMPOSSIBLE, AS IT DID IN THE SHABA INSTANCE, BUT I HAVE NO NOTIONS OF SOME EXTRA-CONTINENTAL POLICE FORCE, OUTSIDE OF THE POSSIBILITY OF A MEMBER NATION ASKING THE U.N. FOR ASSISTANCE, WHICH IS A DIFFERENT QUESTION. VANCE

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